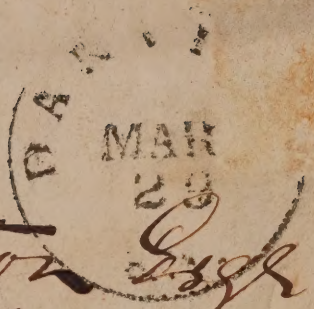

A. G. Simonton Esqr

Cor. Sec. of Soc. of Inq. of Princeton Theo. Sem.

Princeton

New Jersey

Danville Presb. Sem.

Danville Ky March 24

To the Soc. of Inquiry of Princ. Theol. Sem.

Dear Brethren

Your very welcome letter bearing date December 28/57. came to hand in due course of mail & was read before our Society of Inquiry at its regular Monthly Meeting. Its views respecting the duties which may accrue to the Brethren of our respective societies, from an habitual correspondence, are most cordially reciprocated. It was written recently after the intelligence reached us, respecting the great calamity, which God in his Mysterious providence had permitted to befall our Missionary operations in this calamity; while to the eyes of the Faithless, it might seem like a signal defeat of the people of God in their vigorous efforts to subdue by mild & peaceful means Immanuel's to evangelize them.

millions of India sitting in the region
& shadow of death - while the Cross
has apparently fallen & its Banner
is streaming low in the dust -
while all of our interests there, which
had been growing in importance for nearly
a quarter of a century, have suffered
greatly, yet reminds us that thro
through sixty centuries, has the
Church of the Living God, been per-
secuted. The Church militant must
expect such trials of her faith.
The ground which has been watered
by the blood of Martyrs has been
consecrated spent to God -
Now that the strong hand of the
English Power is raised against
the enemy, we have only to go
up & take possession of this
land & this people for our God.
The faith of God people should be
strengthened. Their souls should be
quickened.
One of the Members of our
Graduating class has offered himself
& has been accepted by the Board
of Foreign Missions. He is going
to join Mr Pratt at Bogota
South America -

There are several of our students first & second year students, who are entertaining the idea of the foreign field.

The claims of South America as a field for missionary operations have of late occasioned a considerable interest among us. The relations of Europe in a civil & commercial aspect are so intimate to China & India; that it would seem more natural that the millions of benighted heathen of Asia would expect the Gospel from the Christians of Europe. But the millions of South America & Peninsular of Mexico, a nation just in our midst with eight millions of inhabitants), when shall they have the Gospel? They are a part of our continent, they belong to us naturally We have too long overlooked the claims of this field upon us. It is true that Mexico is stood up against us: while it may be regarded as a [redacted] upon our Exact & formidable nation that in her negotiations with the authorities of Mexico, she has not insisted upon interpreting into her treaties with this people a clause which would guarantee,

communities to american citizens & protection to our Missionaries & the opportunity to work in that field; while the Herald of the Cross still be debarred from entering that field? not one dollar has been spent towards sending the word of God to this people since 1826 = No Missionary has trod it soil = We are to be prudent this true & make the best disposal of our pecuniary means = Mexico needs help = I send you a copy of our catalogue The state of religion feeling is growing among us = We passed some months since while we heard such glorious tidings of God's presence in our seaboard towns that we were to be passed by without a blessing. We had commenced to ask God for his blessing; but like Abraham who ceased to plead for Sodom when ten men were not found our faith failed us. We have renewed our request. We have instituted a young Mens Prayer Meeting in the chapel of our seminary which is filled with our own Brethren & the [illegible] of the college. This afternoon

3

for the first time in consequence of the growing interest, we have invited the Young Men of the Town to join us. We Read the promises & expect the Blessing - Remember us in your Prayers.

In regard to particulars respecting our ordinary exercises in the Seminary I refer to the catalogue - this shows the principles upon which they are conducted. On Saturday Morning, we spend two hours in the Lecture room; all of the Students & the Professors being present - At this exercise a Critical exercise is read which is required to be prepared not in a perfunctory manner, but thoroughly & Critically - Two Skeletons of Sermons are also read, and a Popular Lecture is delivered: these performances are all subject to the criticism of the Professors & of the Students: On Sabbath Morning we spend one hour & a half in Conference, when all students & Professors are expected to be present.

Voluntary exercises: With the exception of two exercises connected with our seminary life, all are binding upon all to attend - these exceptions

are our debating societys & societys of Inquiry.
There are both made extremely interesting
& profitable. The most of our students indeed
all belong to one or both of these societies
In our debating societys the questions
which are so intimately & fundamentally
connected with the truth & practice of
our church, are discussed. The regular
appointees of the societys are required
to write carefull & elaborate preparation
& a word no more than it is it were a
kind of a reflex of a Presbytery.

Public exercises. There consist of
Preaching by the Licentiates two after-
noons of each month in the Chapel
which is attended by the citizens of
the town & students. The pulpit is oc-
cupied one sabbath in the month by
the professors alternately & the fourth
by the societys of Inquiry.

There is in all of our exercises among
our brethren one prevailing sentiment
& connection, which exhibits itself upon
every occasion & this is that God intends
to convert sinners & to gather into his
kingdom his elect; not by polished
Rhetoric, oriental Logic, philosophical
disquisitions, not by any such human
inventions or instrumentalities except in
a most subordinate sense; but simply

by the prohibition of preaching of the Gospel of the Son of God.

It becomes us Brethren who are appertains to the Gospel Ministry to awake to a sense of our high calling, to a consideration of the commission of our Master. We pander too much to the taste of people of the world. We conform too much to their selfish maxims. Let us awake & return again to the practice of the Fathers of our Faith. Let us be Baptized afresh. Let us consecrate ourselves anew to our masters service. For Lo! if indeed we have been regenerated, Justified & adopted into the family of God is one of service: In point of fact this is one of the glorious benefits of our union with our Head. He who suffers most in that service, shall reap the most in that service which shall be consummated in Glory.

Remember us my dear Brethren in your prayers: We are in different seminaries but we are of the same Faith, the same Baptism, the same Fold, the same Church & we shall soon be in the same service: Let us strive towards each other that Love, which should characterize Brethren =

Hope it will be our pleasure to hear from you if not the present session; at the opening of the next May the Blessing of God rest upon you as well as upon all the Israel of God.

Yours in the Lord

George Morrison

Cor. Sec. of Soc. of Inquiry

of

Danville Theo. Seminary